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11. — *Historical Causes and Effects, from the Fall of the Roman Empire A. D. 476 to the Reformation A. D. 1517.*  
By WILLIAM SULLIVAN. Boston. 1838. pp. 615.

THIS is an extremely well written book. The period of history which it treats of, is the most important, in every respect, since the world began. The institutions on which rests modern civilization, and we may confidently believe, the perpetual civilization of the human race, were founded within its limits. It is a period illustrated by the most extraordinary men, and the most brilliant achievements in arts and arms; signalized by the brightest virtues and the darkest crimes. The complicated events, which its history embraces, have been well considered and clearly arranged by Mr. Sullivan. He has spared no labor to present us a true picture of the times, and accordingly does not confine himself to the mere political events, but extends his inquiries to the jurisprudential, scientific, and literary progress of nations. Of course, such a vast variety of subjects cannot be handled in much detail, within the limits of a single volume. The rise and progress of the Italian Republics, for instance, is a matter for some twenty volumes, as Mr. Sismondi practically testifies. The view which Mr. Sullivan presents of this and other similar historical themes, is, of necessity, a very condensed one. But he is always clear and interesting. His style is pure and sprightly; and we know not where to turn for a better general introduction to the study of modern history, than is offered us in this volume.

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12. — *Conspiracy of the Spaniards against the Republic of Venice, in 1618. Translated from the French of the Abbé St. Réal.* Boston. Otis, Broaders, & Co. 12mo. pp. 108.

THE story related in this exceedingly interesting little work is, as the translator reminds us in the preface, the basis of "one of the most thrilling tragedies in our language." The narrative of the conspiracy of the Marquis of Bedemar, the Spanish minister at Venice, is extremely well told; and the characters of the conspirators strikingly drawn. The translator has not overcome all the difficulties of his task. Too close an adherence to the forms of expression in the original, has caused an occasional stiffness in his style, and here and there a violation of English idiom. But on the whole, it is to be commended, as a praiseworthy effort to lay the history of a remarkable historical event before the American reader, in his own language.